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June 13, 2022

Ms. Nicole Frigault
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
PO Box 1046 Station B, 280 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Rook I Project – Submission of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Frigault:

On behalf of NexGen Energy Ltd. (NexGen), it is our pleasure to provide you with this update letter in support of the ongoing federal environmental assessment (EA) process for the Rook I Project (the Project). This correspondence follows the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) formal Notice of Commencement of an EA for the Project on May 2, 2019, and the subsequent CNSC Record of Decision on the scope of the EA for the Project as made on February 20, 2020.

The intent of this correspondence is to formally confirm the submission of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as provided to the CNSC in May 2022 and to provide additional information shared with NexGen by local Indigenous Groups regarding their support for the continued safe advancement of the Project. The subsequent sections of this letter include an overview of NexGen and the Project, regulatory context for the EA, Indigenous engagement, the draft EIS submitted by NexGen in May 2022, and next steps in the federal EA review process. Included in Attachment A are letters of support for the Project from each of the Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN), Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), and Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN), of which all have also confirmed support for the Project through the execution of Benefit Agreements with NexGen covering the entire lifespan of the Project.

NexGen and the Rook I Project

NexGen is a well-funded Canadian corporation focused on the acquisition, exploration, and development of Canadian uranium projects. NexGen was founded in 2011 after an extensive evaluation process of global uranium assets that led to the acquisition of the southwest Athabasca Basin project portfolio, which includes the Rook I property. NexGen is optimizing the advancement of the Project with a focus on protecting people and the environment and meaningfully engaging with the communities in which it operates. NexGen is entirely dedicated to this philosophy.

The proposed Project is located in northwestern Saskatchewan's southern Athabasca Basin and would include underground and surface facilities to support the mining and processing of uranium ore and the production of uranium concentrate. The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide a potential source of uranium as part of meeting global demand for electricity through low-GHG emitting energy options. The development of the Project can materially contribute to the facilitation of renewable energy options and meet the growing global electricity demands. When in production, the Project is capable of being the world's largest producing mine of uranium concentrate (U₃O₈) and the most environmentally elite given its technical and environmental setting, complemented by the proposed design parameters as detailed in the draft EIS. Further, the Project would create substantial employment, training, and business opportunities, particularly

locally, and also more broadly throughout Saskatchewan and Canada. With a focus on northern Saskatchewan, Project plans for employment, contracting, and training are being implemented to maximize local benefits and opportunities, while simultaneously building local Indigenous Group and community capacity.

Regulatory Context for the Environmental Assessment

In April 2019, NexGen submitted a Project Description of the Project to both the CNSC and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV). The purpose of the Project Description was to introduce the Project to the public and regulatory authorities with responsibility for assessment of the Project, and to determine the scope of and initiate the formal federal and provincial regulatory processes. Based on the nature of the Project and legislative EA criteria, the Project was determined to be subject to both federal and provincial EAs.

As part of the April 2019 submission, NexGen also submitted a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Project to the CNSC and ENV. The purpose of the TOR was to provide guidance for the development of the expected EA and the primary components and elements to be included in the EIS for the Project. The Project Description and TOR were accepted by the CNSC and ENV on 26 April 2019 and 24 April 2019, respectively.

Since the regulatory process for the Project was initiated prior to the new federal *Impact Assessment Act* (August 2019) coming into effect, the Project is governed federally by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012). The CNSC confirmed this process in their Record of Decision dated February 20, 2020. The provincial EA is being completed under *The Environmental Assessment Act of Saskatchewan*.

Indigenous Engagement

Engagement with local Indigenous Groups; local communities, residents, businesses, organizations, and land users; and regulatory authorities is foundational to the responsible development of the Project. NexGen has always valued and respected the culture, interests, and aspirations of the communities where it operates, and will continue to do so. Since 2013, NexGen has worked closely with local communities and those expressing interest in the Project to develop meaningful relationships based on respect and trust.

Prior to commencement of the EA process in April 2019 through the submission of the Project Description for the Project, NexGen regularly engaged with local Indigenous Groups and communities on proposed exploration activities and early Project development aspects. The engagement approach for the Project has been developed in agreement with Indigenous Groups and stakeholders to inform and enhance both the EA and related planning and preparation for development of the proposed Project.

NexGen's approach to the EA process has been focused on enabling dialogue with and seeking feedback from Indigenous Groups who could potentially be affected by the proposed Project. To help facilitate engagement with local Indigenous Groups, NexGen entered into Study Agreements with each of the CRDN, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S; on behalf of Northern Region 2), BNDN, and BRDN. The Study Agreements formalized the engagement approaches that would support each primary Indigenous Group's participation in the EA process, particularly to:

- develop a Joint Working Group (JWG) structure for each Indigenous Group to support the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge into the EA process and to facilitate regular, ongoing engagement;
- assist in the identification of valued components for the EA;
- explore special interest topics for each Indigenous Group;
- support Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Land Use (IKTLU) Studies in various forms particular to each Indigenous Group; and

- establish a Community Coordinator position in each Indigenous Group to act as the primary contact between NexGen and the Indigenous Group.

In addition, each Study Agreement commits NexGen to providing capacity funding for the JWG engagement, retention of technical support by the Indigenous Group, and completion of the self-directed IKTLU Studies. Each of the CRDN, MN-S, BNDN, and BRDN completed IKTLU Studies in support of the EA for the Project.

NexGen's approach to the EA recognizes that results from the EA may be used to inform the Crown's consultation process, including the assessment of impacts to Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Study Agreements also commit NexGen and each Indigenous Group to negotiate in good faith to formalize a Benefit Agreement, and for NexGen to provide funding to assist in negotiating such an agreement. To date, NexGen has signed Benefit Agreements with the CRDN, BNDN, and BRDN. The agreements include provisions for ongoing engagement and for financial and human resources to support Indigenous cultural and traditional values as well as environmental stewardship, employment, training, and economic development throughout the entire lifespan of the Project.

Importantly, the Benefit Agreements are entered into in recognition of existing Aboriginal, inherent, or treaty rights recognized and affirmed pursuant to Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* of the primary Indigenous Groups. They do not in any way abrogate, extinguish, or constitute the abandonment of any such rights.

May 2022 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Submission

The EIS represents the collection of reports that document NexGen's EA of the Project. Since 2011, NexGen established an experienced team of subject matter experts and qualified professionals across all aspects of the Project to conduct technical studies; engage with Indigenous Groups, communities, regulators, and public stakeholders; and prepare the EIS.

The EIS for the Project has been developed to meet the TOR, which includes fulfilling the federal requirements under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and CEAA 2012, and the provincial requirements of *The Environmental Assessment Act*. The EIS has also been developed to follow the *Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement - Pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

The EIS is composed of many different documents. Information is presented in multiple levels of detail to support different audiences in their reviews. Key documents comprising the EIS include:

- tables of concordance developed to assist in conformance reviews against each of the federal and provincial EA requirements for the Project;
- individual EIS sections providing:
 - Project, regulatory, Indigenous Group, and stakeholder context;
 - technical methods and assessments;
 - information about Project resilience;
 - EA summaries including residual Project and cumulative effects, mitigation, monitoring, and follow-up programs; and
 - EA conclusions;
- technical support documents including information that supports the analyses in EIS sections; and
- baseline reports describing the existing biophysical and socio-economic conditions.

Draft EIS summary submission tables are provided in Attachment B.

Federal Environmental Assessment Review Process

From discussion with the CNSC team, we understand that the current status of the federal technical review for the Project is an ongoing 30-day EA conformance review being conducted by the CNSC. Further, we understand that this will be followed by a parallel public and technical comment period, at the conclusion of which the CNSC will be providing consolidated federal and public comments for NexGen response, where applicable.

We look forward to continuing to work with the CNSC team through the EIS technical review phase and thank you for the invitation to present findings of the EIS to the Joint Federal-Indigenous Technical Review team in a workshop scheduled in July 2022. Consistent with the approaches established during development of the EIS, continuing to hold workshops between NexGen and the federal review team through the technical review of the draft EIS provides the opportunity for ongoing transparency and collaboration throughout the EA process.

Closure

We are committed to working with the CNSC for the safe advancement of the Rook I Project and appreciate the opportunity to provide this formal update and associated letters of support from local Indigenous Groups. We trust the detail provided in the EIS satisfies the legislative requirements under CEAA 2012.

NexGen will be in contact following this submission to discuss the next steps in relation to the CNSC EA review process for the Project. Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact Luke Moger at lmoger@nxe-energy.ca or by phone at (604) 970-0248.

Sincerely,



Leigh Curyer
President and Chief Executive Officer
NexGen Energy Ltd.

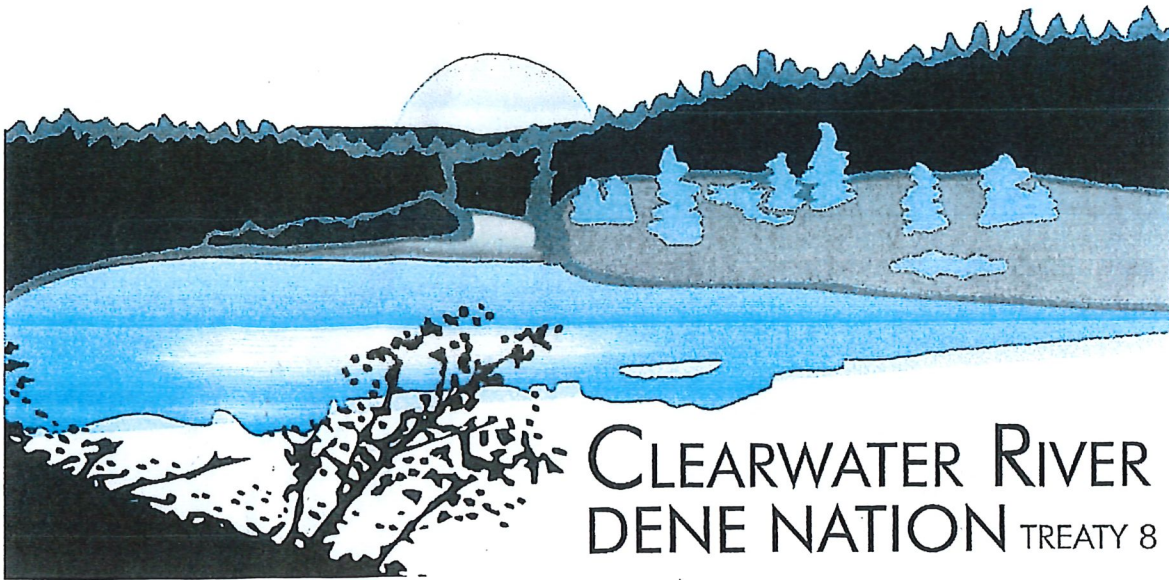


Luke Moger
Vice President, Environment, Permitting & Licensing
NexGen Energy Ltd.

LM:lm

NexGen: T. George, K. Oakes, A. Engdahl, Regulatory
CNSC: P. Burton, R. Snider, Records Office

Attachment A: Letters of Support from Indigenous Groups



June 01, 2022,

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Rook I Project (the "Project")

We are writing with respect to the Project, which is being advanced by NexGen Energy Ltd. ("NexGen").

Please accept this letter as confirmation that CRDN has entered into an agreement with NexGen pursuant to which CRDN has agreed to provide its consent and support for the Project.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, CRDN expressly reserves its rights to continue to be consulted and otherwise participate in any regulatory or administrative processes in connection with permits, approvals or other authorizations for the Project, including raising issues or concerns for the purpose of identifying and eliminating, managing or mitigating impacts of the Project on CRDN, and in regard to managing cumulative impacts in CRDN's territory.

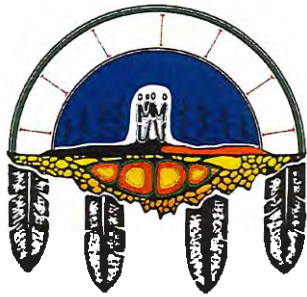
Sincerely,

Chief Teddy Clark

cc. Council Elect

Camm Willier – Engagement Lead

Jeff Langlois – JFK Law



Birch Narrows Dene Nation

Administration

P.O. Box 40

Turnor Lake, Sask

S0M 3E0

Telephone: 306.894.2030

Facsimile: 306.894.2060

Email: officemanager@birchnarrows.ca

FORM OF SUPPORT LETTER

Thursday June 02, 2022

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Rook I Project (the "Project")

We are writing with respect to the Project, which is being advanced by NexGen Energy Ltd. ("NexGen").

Please accept this letter as confirmation that Birch Narrows Dene Nation ("BNDN") has entered into an agreement with NexGen dated January 28, 2021 pursuant to which

BNDN has agreed to provide its consent and support for the Project, subject to NexGen complying with its obligations therein.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, BNDN expressly reserves its rights to continue to be consulted and otherwise participate in any regulatory or administrative processes in connection with permits, approvals or other authorizations for the Project, including raising issues or concerns for the purpose of identifying and eliminating, managing or mitigating impacts of the Project on BNDN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Sylvestre', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Chief Jonathan Sylvestre



BUFFALO RIVER DENE NATION

Band No. 398
Box 40, Dillon, Saskatchewan S0M 0S0
Phone (306) 282-2033 — Fax (306) 282-2101
Fax (306) 282-2113

June 3, 2022

To Whom it May Concern RE: Rook 1 Project (the "Project")

We are writing with respect to the Project, which is being advanced by NexGen Energy Ltd. ("NexGen"). Please accept this letter as confirmation that the Buffalo River Dene Nation has entered into an agreement with NexGen pursuant to which Buffalo River Dene Nation has agreed to provide its consent and support for the Project.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Buffalo River Dene Nation expressly reserves its rights to continue to be consulted and otherwise participate in any regulatory or administrative processes in connection with permits, approvals, or other authorizations for the Project, including raising issues or concerns for the purpose of identifying and eliminating, managing or mitigating impacts of the Project on the Buffalo River Dene Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Catarat", is written over a horizontal line.

Chief Norma Catarat

Buffalo River Dene Nation

Attachment B: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Submission Document Summary

Consolidated Draft Environmental Impact Statement Documents

Document Title
Compiled Environmental Impact Statement Sections
Master Abbreviations, Units, References List + Glossary

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Sections

Section Number	Document Title
1	Introduction
2	Indigenous, Regulatory, and Public Engagement
3	Indigenous and Local Knowledge
4	Project Alternatives
5	Project Description
6	Environmental Assessment Approach and Methods
7	Air Quality, Noise, and Climate Change
8	Hydrogeology
9	Hydrology
10	Surface Water Quality and Sediment Quality
11	Fish and Fish Habitat
12	Terrain and Soils
13	Vegetation
14	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
15	Human Health
16	Cultural and Heritage Resources and Indigenous Land and Resource Use
17	Other Land and Resource Use
18	Economy
19	Community Well-Being
20	Summary of Residual Project and Cumulative Effects
21	Accidents and Malfunctions
22	Assessment of Effects of the Environment on the Project
23	Summary of Mitigation, Monitoring, and Follow-Up Programs
24	Conclusions

Technical Support Documents

Document Number	Document Title
I	Indigenous Engagement Report
II	Birch Narrows Dene Nation Traditional Knowledge and Use Study
III	Buffalo River Dene Nation Traditional Knowledge and Use Study
IV	Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Northern Region 2 Traditional Land Use & Diet Study for The NexGen Rook 1 Project
V.1	Preliminary Identification of Issues and Concerns Related to the Proposed NexGen Energy Ltd. Rook 1 Project in the Patterson Lake Area; A Review; Clearwater River Dene Nation; Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Mapping Interviews; 2010 – 2016
V.2	Clearwater River Dene Nation Indigenous Rights and Knowledge Survey Related to the Proposed NexGen Energy Ltd. Rook 1 Project in the Patterson Lake Area
V.3	Socio-economic and Harvest Study; Clearwater River Dene Nation; NexGen Rook 1 Project
VI	Provision of Athabasca Denesūliné Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Information
VII	Mine Waste Alternatives Assessment
VIII	Accidents and Malfunctions Report
IX	Transportation Risk Assessment Report
X	Vibration Effects Analysis Report
XI	Light Effects Analysis Report
XII	Net-Zero Framework
XIII	Upstream Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Carbon Intensity Discussion
XIV	Groundwater Flow and Solute Transport Modelling Report
XV	Tailings Source Term Derivation Report
XVI	Tailings Geochemical Characterization Report
XVII	Waste Rock and Underground Wall Rock Source Term Predictions Report
XVIII	Site-Wide Water Balance and Water Quality Modelling Report
XIX	Conceptual Diffuser Design Report
XX	Downstream Use and Impact Study for Proposed Treated Sewage Discharge Report
XXI	Environmental Risk Assessment
XXII	Climate Adaptation Framework

Note: Indigenous Knowledge / Traditional Land Use Studies were not provided directly to the CNSC, as these documents are subject to direct information sharing agreements between the CNSC and each respective Indigenous Group

Baseline Reports

Annex Number	Document Title
I	Atmospheric Baseline Report
II	Noise and Light Baseline Report
III	Hydrogeology Baseline Report
IV	Hydrology Baseline Road Map
IV.1	Regional Meteorological and Hydrological Characterization Report
IV.2	Hydrometric Monitoring Characterization Report
IV.3	Geomorphology Characterization Report
IV.4	Patterson Lake Currents Assessment Report
IV.5	Forrest Lake Mixing Study Report
V	Aquatic Baseline Road Map
V.1	Aquatic Environment Baseline Report
V.2	Overwintering Fish Habitat Report
V.3	Naomi Lake Bathymetry Report
VI	Terrain and Soils Baseline Report
VII	Vegetation Baseline Road Map
VII.1	Vegetation Baseline Report 1 (Mapping)
VII.2	Vegetation Baseline Report 2 (Inventory, Rare Plants, and Wetlands)
VII.3	Vegetation Chemistry Characterization Report
VIII	Wildlife Baseline Road Map
VIII.1	Wildlife Baseline Report 1 (Mammals, Waterfowl, and Raptors)
VIII.2	Wildlife Baseline Report 2 (Amphibians, Birds, and Bats)
VIII.3	Wildlife Baseline Report 3 (Bird Migration and Bats)
IX	Heritage Resources Impact Assessment and Cover Letter
X	Socio-economic Baseline Report